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this hour
You use your
power,
The World
must follow
you

THE INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER

Official Organ of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 1328 SECOND STREET NORTH

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1941

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1179 Market Street - Room 402

MEETINGS 1st & 3rd SUNDAYS 7 P.M.

For Information Call Market 2661

Stand all as
one
Till right
is done!
Believe and
dare and do!

FIVE CENTS

FBI Helped Tobin Organize "Committee of 99"

CIO Leaders Leave Mediation Board

Morgan-Inspired Decision in Captive Mine Dispute Is Last Straw—All CIO Men Pull Out of Board—Is Blow to Roosevelt Plans to Hogtie Labor

Denouncing the pro-Steel Trust decision of the National Defense Mediation Board in the captive mine strike as an action that has "made it impossible for labor to retain any confidence in the Board's future actions," all CIO members of the Board resigned from it Tuesday.

The seven CIO members and alternates of the board who have resigned are CIO President Philip Murray; Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers; John Brophy, CIO director; Clinton Golden, regional director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee; James Carey, CIO secretary; Hugh Lyons, CIO regional director in New England; and Sherman Dalrymple, president of the United Rubber Workers.

The resignations of the labor members of the board followed closely on the heels of the board's 9-2 decision Monday to defend the Steel Trust by denying the demand of the miners for a union shop in the steel corporation's captive mines.

That the decision of the CIO leadership to turn its back on the anti-labor Defense Mediation Board has the support of the CIO generally was indicated Tuesday when President R. J. Thomas of the United Auto Workers instructed union representatives not to present any more union cases before the board. Other CIO unions did likewise.

Is Severe Blow to Roosevelt

The action of the CIO in resigning from the board and warning unions against the board is recognized as a stunning blow to Roosevelt and the anti-labor policies of the national administration.

Roosevelt's whole game has been to endow the National Defense Mediation Board with moral authority derived from the presence of labor's representatives on the board. Since the board's creation last March, the government and the employers have argued that workers should accept the anti-labor decisions of the board, since labor's own leaders sat on the board and participated in the decisions.

Withdrawal of CIO representatives from the board leaves it nakedly exposed as an instrument of the employers to turn aside or suppress labor's demands.

Government officials in Washington are reported frantically working on plans for a new war labor board set-up similar to that used by President Wilson in the First World War to weaken the union movement and freeze labor's status.

Experience Taught CIO

Eight months' experience with the National Defense Mediation Board has taught organized labor that the board is only a trap for labor, laid by the bosses and the government. The captive mine decision, with its far-reaching implications for the future of unionism in the nation's steel industry, was the straw that broke the camel's back.

Murray Exposed Board

The National Defense Mediation Board was correctly sized up by CIO President Philip Murray months ago before the board was set up. Writing in the CIO NEWS of March 10th, Murray listed five principal objections to Roosevelt's board, composed of four corpora-



John L. Lewis



J. P. Morgan

tion heads, four union men, and three representatives of "the public."

Such a board, Murray then said, "will necessarily find its attention directed against labor in order to maintain the status quo as much as possible," and will seek to prevent "wage increases or improvement of working conditions of labor." Murray foresaw that the board would "bring terrific pressure to bear on labor to agree to arbitration in practically all situations" and would inevitably pave the way for compulsory arbitration and the outlawry of strikes.

The pressure of the board, Murray said, would be directed against the operation of the Wagner Act, the Wages and Hours Act and other protective labor laws. The board would use its powers to strip the National Labor Relations Board of its power to require employers to bargain collectively.

Who the "Public" Is

Finally, Murray, foresaw the board could only be a bosses' board voting against labor, inasmuch as the three representatives of the "public" would hold the balance of power, even if the AFL spokesmen defended labor's rights. "It has been the experience of labor that representatives from the public are usually taken from the ranks of retired business men," Murray correctly observed.

Despite this correct estimate of the board's role, CIO leaders permitted themselves to be high-pressured into joining the board. The experience of eight months has proved that Murray's original estimate of the board is completely correct. The Mediation Board, and any successor to the board cooked up by Roosevelt's advisers, can only be a boss weapon designed to annihilate the labor movement.

Commissary Committee Thanks

The Commissary Committee, organizing the commissary at 919 Marquette to take care of the defendants and their families wishes to thank all the friends and sympathizers who have so generously donated of money, food and time toward the work.

Many persons have already sent food and money to the committee, but the committee stresses the fact that contributions are still needed. Make all contributions either to Mr. Goldman at 919 or to the Workers Defense League through Arthur Sternberg, treasurer, at 1728 James Ave., St. Paul.

Bosses Fight Over-Road Contract

CHICAGO, ILL. — Realizing that Dan Tobin's reactionary dictatorship over the drivers has tied the hands of the union over-road negotiating committee, midwest truck operators have bluntly rejected the demands of 250,000 over-road drivers in the 11-state area.

The present over-road contract which expires November 15th was negotiated in 1939 by a union committee headed by Farrell Dobbs, chief organizer of over-road workers in this area. Dobbs, together with the militant leadership of Local 544, is today a defendant in the "sedition" case inspired by Dictator Tobin. Other militant union leaders throughout the area have been summarily ousted by Tobin through his receivership racket. The drivers thus entered negotiations two months ago minus the very backbone of their organization.

The drivers enter the current negotiations under the handicap of misleaders like Raw Deal Neal and Sidney Brennan.

Lean on Government

No sooner had a deadlock been reached in the negotiations than the union committee, on orders from Tobin, rushed to throw the dispute to the federal government. Knowing they have nothing to fear from Dictator Tobin, the truck operators are confident they can bat down all major demands of the drivers and reach a settlement entirely satisfactory to themselves.

FOLLOW THE TRIAL

Order your Special Three-Month Subscription to the INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER, for only fifty cents (50c).

SEE OUR ADVERTISEMENT PAGE FOUR

"Case" Rests on Tobin Payrollers

Practically all the 32 prosecution witnesses appearing in the "sedition" trial are on Tobin's payroll, members of Tobin's "Committee of 99," or relatives or friends of theirs.

Among the Tobin payrollers who have testified for the government are:

1. JAMES BARTLETT—appointed by Tobin's receiver, Neal, as 544 organizer;
2. WALTER STULTZ—serving a term in Sandstone for alleged interference with interstate commerce, both Stultz and his wife are on Tobin's payroll;
3. ROY WIENEKE—appointed Tobin organizer after June 9th;
4. JOHN NOVACK—member of a Tobin "negotiating squad";
5. TOM McCUE—appointed organizer by Neal;
6. HENRY HARRIS—bodyguard for Bartlett, and member of Committee of 99;
7. GLEN SMITH—a Bartlett bodyguard, has worked for Neal;
8. SIDNEY BRENNAN—appointed secretary-treasurer of 544-AFL by Neal;
9. GEORGE O'BRIEN—appointed organizer by Neal;
10. HELEN HANIFAN—Neal's bookkeeper;
11. HARRIET KARLEN—Neal's stenographer.

Mediation Board Cheated Miners

Knew Decision Would Set Precedent —AFL Representatives Voted For J. P. Morgan Against Labor

Supported by the treachery of the two AFL members, and by the three representatives of the "public," the National Defense Mediation Board on Monday made public its decision to deny the United Mine Workers the union shop in the critical miners' dispute with the captive coal mines owned by J. P. Morgan's Steel Trust.

The anti-labor decision of the mediation board, if accepted by the miners, would have had the most disastrous consequences for the future of unionism in the steel industry and in many other defense industries.

Fortunately for all labor, the CIO reacted militantly to the board's decision in favor of the Steel Trust. CIO withdrew all its representatives from the mediation board. John L. Lewis has called a special session of the UMW policy committee at Washington Friday.

Army Sends Spies to Mines

Representatives of both the union and the steel trust have accepted invitations from Roosevelt to meet with him. Even before issuing the invitation, however, Roosevelt and the army had sent "intelligence officers" (army spies) into the mining country to lay the groundwork for breaking any strike that may develop.

Decision Is Plenty Raw

Under the pretext that the UMW shouldn't be granted the union shop because "they are well able by themselves to complete the full organization of the bituminous coal industry," the majority of the mediation board handed down its decision.

In its decision, the board at several points had to admit the justice of the miners' demand:

"When we look at the resulting situation from the point of view of the one individual in 200 who has not chosen to join the union, in spite of the action of the overwhelming majority of his fellow workers and the fact that he enjoys the benefits of the contracts negotiated and administered by the United Mine Workers of America at great expense, it is hard to think of a reason why the individual should persist in re-

fusing to join the union," the board admitted.

That the board recognized the full anti-labor implications of its decision is shown by the following extract from the text of the majority decision: "If this decision cannot be isolated by its peculiar circumstances from questions of union security that arise in other industries then a recommendation by this board in favor of the United Mine Workers would mean that we are prepared to recommend the same contract in all other industries, and, on the other hand, A DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE OPERATORS WOULD MEAN THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THE UNION SHOP UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHATEVER."

Confronted with this clear-cut choice, the board majority—representing the corporations, the "public," and the AFL—plumped for the Steel Trust.

AFL Pair Betray Labor

News that the two AFL representatives on the mediation board had voted with the representatives of the Steel Trust against the miners came as a shock to workers throughout the nation. Just last week the two AFL men, George Googe and William Calvin—announced at a board meeting that "they were in full support of the United Mine Workers" on the crucial issue of the union shop.

At the last moment, however, under the pressure of the Steel Trust and of such labor traitors as Tobin and Hillman, the AFL pair reversed themselves and voted against labor, with the silly excuse that they feared government interference in the affairs of labor. They didn't dare open their mouths about the obvious fact, that the captive mine decision will harm all AFL unions just as it does the CIO.

Government Offered To Take Care of Karl Skoglund

FBI Joined Tobin Agents Last Spring to Smash Union—Committee of 99 Masqueraded as "Loyal Union Opposition," Was Tool of FBI — Revelation Throws New Light on Tobin's Actions

The FBI joined with Daniel J. Tobin's agents in an attempt last Winter and Spring to oust the leadership of Local 544, it was revealed this week by cross-examination of the eleven stoolpigeons on Tobin's payroll who have appeared as prosecution witnesses in the "sedition" trial against Local 544-CIO and the Socialist Workers Party. This damning admission, wrested from Tobin's own agents, proves conclusively the charge previously made by the defense that this trial is but the latest of a series of Tobin-FBI attacks on Local 544-CIO, and that, when all other methods failed, the Tobin-FBI alliance resorted to a court frameup.

Under the withering cross-examination of chief defense counsel Albert Goldman—himself one of the 28 defendants—several Tobin payrollers admitted they had contacted the FBI early in the Tobin fight against Local 544. Then, on Monday, the picture was completed when Henry Harris, government witness and member of the Tobin "Committee of 99," admitted under cross-examination that:

1. FBI Agent Thomas Perrin sent Tobin agent Harris to offer Karl Skoglund a promise of citizenship papers if Skoglund would "break with the Dunnes and join the Committee of 99." The FBI agent, Harris testified, "thought Karl Skoglund might come in with us in the Committee of 99 if we made such an offer, and I made Skoglund such an offer." (All quotations are from the official court record.) Skoglund rejected the offer, and is now one of the defendants on trial.

2. The same FBI agent was admitted into an "organization meeting of the Committee of 100" (the earlier name of the Committee of 99) at the Nicollet Hotel. Henry Harris himself admitted the FBI agent at the instructions of the late Tom Williams, leader of the Committee. Williams died last March, which places the beginning of the Tobin-FBI alliance against the Local 544 leadership prior to that date. That is, the FBI helped launch the Committee of 99!

During March, when the Committee of 99 was already working with the FBI, it pretended to picture itself as a "loyal opposition" within the union. But it failed to get any support from the membership, which only a few months earlier, in December, had re-elected the leadership despite the red-baiting attacks of the Tobin agents.

Tobin Hypocrisy

Then the Committee of 99 appealed—to its own boss, Tobin! In a farcical "hearing" in April Tobin's assistant, International Officer Gillespie, "considered" the Committee of 99 charges. In May, Tobin himself held a similar "hearing" and decreed that he would send a dictator-receiver to take over Local 544. Tobin got his answer from the Minneapolis motor transport workers on June 9, when a membership meeting voted almost unanimously to disaffiliate from Tobin's International and accept a charter from the CIO.

Tobin wept crocodile tears about this decision, as he appealed on June 13 to President Roosevelt for aid against the CIO and Local 544-CIO—aid which came in the June 27 raids on the Socialist Workers Party headquarters, the July 15 indictment of the 28 defendants, and the present trial.

But this aid to Tobin from the FBI and other governmental agencies did not begin on June 27. This aid did not begin after Local 544 joined the CIO.

The FBI-Tobin alliance began its foul union-busting campaign in the guise of an "inner union" Committee of 99. That is what the cross-examination has proved this past week, out of the mouths of Tobin's own agents.

Mass Meeting On Trials November 17

Monday evening, November 17, at the Pioneer Hall in the Lumber Exchange, union men and women of Minneapolis will be given the chance to hear an up to the minute account of the "sedition conspiracy" trial now in progress in Federal Court against twenty-eight men and women from 544-CIO and the Socialist Workers Party. Speakers will include Farrell Dobbs, well known to Minneapolis union people for his excellent work in organizing locally and throughout the entire northwest, not only among the truck drivers but in many other fields.

Carlos Hudson, who has been acting editor of the Industrial Organizer and held the same position with the Northwest Organizer, is also a defendant in the case. He will give a factual account of the day by day events as they transpire in the court room. The other speakers will be Mark Smith, publicity director for the Civil Rights Defense Committee, Gilbert Carlson, one of the defense attorneys, and Arthur Sternberg, treasurer of the Workers Defense League which is working with the CRDC in collecting money for the defense in the trial.

Admission is free, and everyone is urged to be there to get the true facts which the daily press has been consistently repressing.

Tobin Admits It!

If the leaders of Local 544-CIO had obeyed Tobin's commands six months ago, they wouldn't have been prosecuted—that's what Tobin himself says!

He says it, under his own name, in the November issue of his TEAMSTERS JOURNAL. Here are his own words from that magazine:

"We can say now that it is our judgment that if they (544-CIO leaders) had agreed to the proposition which was made by the General Executive Board at its meeting in Washington in May, they would have avoided a great deal of the unpleasant conditions which now obtain."

The "proposition" was Tobin's demand that Local 544 submit to a Receiver appointed by Tobin.

The "unpleasant conditions" which followed Local 544's refusal are—the indictment and the trial in which Tobin's paid stoolpigeons are trying to send the Local 544-CIO leaders to prison for sixteen-year terms!

Priorities Hit SWOC Members

The Steel Workers Organizing Committee announced last week that the jobs of 100,000 steel workers are threatened by priority rules. 55,000 workers in the finishing departments of large integrated steel mills and in steel fabricating plants manufacturing such items as washing machine, lawn mowers, etc., have already been laid off.

Chicago sheet and strip mills are operating only 50 per cent of capacity because of a shortage of semi-finished steel diverted to the manufacture of heavier products for use in construction of tanks, ships, freight cars, etc. Hence 30,000 workers get as little as three days work a week.

In many other sections thousands of workers have either been laid off outright or are working only part time.

Mass Meeting Monday, Nov. 17, 8 P. M.

Speakers: Farrell Dobbs, Carlos Hudson, Gilbert Carlson

Auspices: Civil Rights Defense Committee

PIONEER HALL, LUMBER EXCHANGE BLDG., ADMISSION FREE. HEAR WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE COURTROOM!

Union for Democratic Action Attacks Trial of 28

Calls Prosecution Direct Threat To Freedom of Speech, Press

One of the most important developments this week in the Minneapolis case, was the strong statement issued by the Union for Democratic Action sharply condemning the prosecution and giving vigorous support to the 28 defendants.

Chairman of the Union is Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union Theological Seminary, and Treasurer is Frieda Kirchwey, editor of THE NATION.

The stand taken by the Union for Democratic Action is particularly significant since the Union is, in their own words, "an organization of American liberals whose definite interventionism is in sharp disagreement with the international and domestic policies advocated by the defendants in the Minneapolis trial."

This is clear evidence of the growing realization among liberal groups throughout the country that this prosecution is a direct assault on the rights of free speech and free press guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. Any doubt as to the real nature of the prosecution was dispelled when Federal Prosecutor Anderson in his opening statement insisted that proof of overt acts was not necessary. The issue has been finally brought into the open by the government itself: the 28 defendants are being prosecuted for what they BELIEVE, what they SAY, and what they PUBLISH.

The Union for Democratic Action statement follows in full:

"Since its inception in May of this year, the Union for Democratic Action has argued vigorously that there is no necessary validity in the insistence of many isolationists that the direct or indirect participation of the United States in the struggle against Fascism abroad will lead to the cessation of democratic processes and attitudes in this country. Indeed, the Union for Democratic Action was formed with the purpose of combating any such anti-democratic tendency that may arise in this period of national emergency.

Is Blow to Democracy

"The present federal prosecution of 29 alleged members of the Socialist Workers Party in Minneapolis is undoubtedly an evidence of such an anti-democratic tendency. The case is particularly disheartening since it is being carried out under the aegis of an attorney general who has consistently in the past fought for democratic rights in America. At this time, while the trial is under way, it would be well for Attorney General Biddle and the Department of Justice to consider carefully the implications of the proceedings in terms of their effect upon the four freedoms in whose defense this country is now cooperating. It would be fitting also for the Department of Justice to examine the situation of civil liberties in wartime Britain where a government representing a united people has found no cause to crush minority opinion, except in so far as that opinion has definite and direct relationship with the enemy.

Clear Facts About Case

"Organizations expert in the field of civil liberties have analyzed carefully the case in question. These organizations include the American Civil Liberties Union

and the Workers Defense League. They have found no legal grounds for the federal prosecution. On the contrary, they remain convinced that the prosecution is inspired by political motives which, in a democracy, can have no bearing on civil liberties. Certain facts stand out: (1) For the first time in peace since the Alien and Sedition Laws of John Adams a mere expression of opinion is considered a federal crime, as was clearly stated in Prosecutor Anderson's opening statement to the jury. (2) Section 6, Chapter 18 of the United States Code, enacted in 1861 to cope with large-scale rebellion, is being used against an insignificant minority which has committed no overt acts whatsoever. (3) The cogent formula of Justices Holmes and Brandeis regarding "a clear and present danger" can under no stretch of the imagination be applied to a group numbering less than 1/260 of 1 per cent of the population. (4) There is no evidence, nor even any attempt to adduce evidence, to show that the defendants were, or are, in any way, directly or indirectly, controlled by any foreign government.

Drop the Indictment!

In view of these obvious facts, the Union for Democratic Action calls upon Attorney General Biddle and the Department of Justice to drop all charges against the 29 defendants and thereby give substance to President Roosevelt's stirring assertion that no nation ever lost its democracy while struggling to defend it."

If there be any among us who wish to dissolve this Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Canada Interns CIO Leader

The Canadian government, which has been carrying on a reign of terror against Canadian and American trade union leaders, has interned in a prison camp Vice-president C. S. Jackson of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. Jackson was sent to a concentration camp without trial as a result of his activities during a recent strike at the General Electric plant near Toronto.

The government's action is severely criticized in a recent issue of the Toronto Daily Star, which calls the Canadian government's action "so outrageously a violation of the lawful liberties of a labor organizer—or indeed, of any citizen—that the case will constitute a blot upon its record. . . . If what he did was considered illegal, then the obvious course was to try him in the courts. . . . If criticism of the government and its legislation is going to land men in detention camps, half the population will have to be interned.

History Repeats Itself

Labor Persecuted Here in 1917-18

Many Jailed, Fined for Unionism

The "sedition" trial recalls to mind the repressive anti-labor actions which occurred in Minnesota during the First World War. Here is a short list:

In 1917 in Minneapolis, following the passage of the unpopular draft law, the authorities raided the bookshop of Alexis Georgian, a well-known socialist, and confiscated a stock of 25,000 anti-war leaflets.

In April, 1917, the Minnesota legislature passed the Criminal Syndicalism Act, prescribing as punishment a term of imprisonment of ten years, or a fine not to exceed \$5,000, or both, for anyone found guilty of interfering with the prosecution of the war.

At Fairbault, Minnesota, three members of the Socialist Labor Party were fined five hundred dollars each and jailed for a year for the publication of an editorial discouraging enlistment. At Bemidji a bookseller accused of having on sale a certain book on sabotage was given two years in jail.

Nonpartisan League Hounded

In 1917 the Nonpartisan League, forerunner of the Farmer-Labor Party, had 20,000 members in Minnesota. The League insisted that the war was a rich man's war and should be financed by the wealthy corporations. In town after town in Minnesota meetings of the Nonpartisan League were prohibited, its leaders mobbed and jailed.

Socialists Imprisoned

In the fall of 1917 the Socialist Party candidate for governor, Jacob Bentall, and the state secretary of the Socialist Party, Abe L. Sugarman, were arrested and sentenced to terms of several years imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth for public utterances opposing the war.

The I.W.W. membership was systematically hounded. Its meetings were forbidden. A number of northern Minnesota towns controlled by the Steel Trust, passed ordinances defining a vagrant as "any person not engaged in a lawful occupation who advocates resistance to war measures." On June 23, 1917, eighteen members of the I.W.W. were arrested and locked up.

Through the efforts of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety, the war-time dictatorship set up in this state, the Federal authorities raided the headquarters of the I.W.W. in fifty cities throughout the nation, arresting 166 leaders, including Big Bill Haywood. One hundred were ultimately convicted and given penitentiary sentences of from three months to twenty years, plus fines.

Throughout Minnesota, all radicals were exposed to kidnappings, tar and feather parties, and other tortures engineered by the warmakers and their political tools. Nonpartisan League newspaper offices, houses of suspected anti-war citizens, were painted yellow. Peace parades were dispersed by organized bands of thugs.

A Minneapolis division of the American Protective League was formed in March, 1917, with 400 volunteer detectives and stool-pigeons assigned to various posts, ferreting out those who resisted the boss war.

The employers in Minneapolis and St. Paul were behind the organization of the "Civilian Auxiliary," a military organization

Cops Don't Beat the Boss



No, these Bergen County, N. J., cops are NOT working over President F. Leroy Hill of Air Associates, the boss who defied the National Defense Mediation Board and refused to rehire members of the United Auto Workers. As usual, the cops are pouncing on one of the victimized workers who dared to protest the arrest of three brother unionists.

Progressive Calls Trial a Frame-up

Below is reprinted an article which appeared in a recent issue of THE PROGRESSIVE, a weekly paper published in Wisconsin.

This is a tale of Four Coincidences which seem to be edging out the Four Freedoms in Minneapolis.

It concerns the federal government's prosecution of 28 Minneapolis residents. They have been indicted under two laws of the United States. One makes it a crime merely to express an "opinion" as to the "propriety" of overthrowing the U. S. government by force and the other is the law against overt acts calculated to overthrow the government by force.

The striking thing about this case—the first federal prosecution for seditious opinion in more than a century—is the coincidental connections that many of the principal characters have with the Roosevelt administration's foreign policy.

The first "coincidence" has to do with the nature of the political philosophy held by 13 of the defendants. They are members of the Socialist Workers Party, followers of the late Leon Trotsky, whose total national membership is probably around 4,000.

Leaders of this politically insignificant group are the celebrated Dunne brothers. They have also led the Minneapolis teamsters through their stormy, militant career of unionism. It is in this trade union connection that the second "coincidence" pops up.

Tobin's Demands Rejected

In an effort to dislodge the Dunne brothers from their positions of power in Local 544, Daniel J. Tobin, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and prominent member of the Fight for Freedom Inc., last spring asked the local to allow him to appoint a representative with power to expel from the union any persons he thought undesirable.

Local 544 flatly rejected his proposal and on June 9 voted overwhelmingly to break its affiliation with the AFL and joined the CIO. On June 13, Tobin, who is, coincidentally, a strong Roosevelt man on both foreign and domestic issues, sent a telegram to the President saying in part that the transfer of 544 was "indeed a regrettable and dangerous condition," and urged that the union leaders, now under indictment, "be in some way prevented from pursuing this dangerous course."

Two weeks later, on June 23, the defendants, including 16 leading members of Local 544, were arrested by the Attorney General's office. In a letter of protest to Attorney General Biddle the American Civil Liberties Union had this to say of the striking "coincidence":

"It seems more reasonable to conclude that the government injected itself into an inter-union controversy in order to promote the interests of the one side (Tobin) which support the Administration's foreign and domestic policies."

The third "coincidence" has to

do with the manner in which the squabble over union affiliation was resolved. Minnesota's Gov. Harold Stassen, who, by coincidence, strongly favors the Administration's foreign policy, and whose labor relations law used to be known to Tobin's teamsters as the "Slave Law," took the matter in hand.

His labor conciliator, Alfred P. Blair, without holding an election, certified Tobin's union as bargaining agent for Minneapolis teamsters. Blair has since been given a position as "labor relations expert" in a west coast corporation which has a sister corporation in Minneapolis.

Four .22 Caliber Guns

Not the least "coincidental" is the position of the Communists, who ordinarily like nothing better than to sink their teeth into a nice juicy "capitalist persecution." Some of the CIO unions in which they wield the greatest influence have refused to support 544-CIO. This strange policy is, no doubt, "coincidental" with the June 23 flip-flop which put them back into the interventionist camp.

The trial began in United States District Court in Minneapolis last week. Attorney General Biddle expressed confidence in a conviction on the grounds that the defendants had committed an overt act toward overthrow by force.

This act, according to Daniel Eastman of the Civil Liberties Union, writing in the Oct. 20 issue of the New Republic, consisted in the organization of the Union Defense Guard which the government alleges was armed.

The Guard, Eastman writes, was organized in 1938 after Roy Zachary, notorious organizer for the Silver Shirts fascists, came to Minneapolis and held meetings in which he publicly called for violent attacks on Local 544's headquarters.

It consists of about 200 workers who engaged in their last guard activities in December of 1940 when they served as ushers at a teamsters' Christmas party. Their revolutionary arsenal was composed of two .22 caliber single-shot rifles and two .22 caliber single-shot target pistols, the total fire power of which does not equal the six-shooter of one Minneapolis policeman.

NOW AS THEN
One murder makes a villain; millions a hero; numbers sanctify crime.—Porteus.

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FAMOUS AMERICAN LABOR TRIALS

100 IWW Militants Victims of War-time Persecution in 1917

Jury Took Only One Hour to Decide Fate of 100 - Judge Handed Out Sentences Amounting to 2,081 Years

The great political trial now taking place in Minneapolis has reawakened the interest of many trade unionists in great labor trials of the past.

The INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER has in recent issues re-told the story of the frame-ups against Eugene V. Debs, the Haywood-Moyer-Pettibone Trial, and the Mooney-Billings case. This week we recount the story of the trial of 100 IWW leaders and members who were victims of the war-time witch hunt of 1917.

The famous Chicago trial of one hundred members of the Industrial Workers of the world opened on April 1, 1918, before Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis. The defendants were charged, in a five-count indictment, with obstructing the war.

When the trial opened, most of the defendants had been held in jail since the federal raids of Sept. 6, 1917. The chief prosecution attorney was Frank K. Nebeker, formerly counsel for the Utah Machinery Co., against whom the defendants had organized strikes.

At the very beginning of the trial, it became clear what odds the defendants had to face. During the selection of the jury, when things looked a little bright for the defense, Judge Landis summarily dismissed the entire panel of prospective jurors. The reason given was that an I.W.W. member once had held a conversation with a relative of one of the panel members.

Unlike the present trial against Local 544-CIO and the Socialist Workers Party, defense counsel had the advantage of questioning the talesmen directly in order to determine whether any prejudice existed.

The Government's "Evidence"

The prosecution opened its case with a five-hour speech by its chief counsel. Nebeker's opening statement was similar in many respects to that of Victor Anderson in the present trial. The government charged that distribution of the Constitution of the I.W.W. was a crime and proof of the seditious nature of the conspiracy. Like Anderson, Nebeker introduced into the record working-class songs

as further proof of the existence of the conspiracy.

The government witnesses too, followed the same pattern as in all anti-labor frame-ups. Subsequent court proceedings revealed that the prosecution, in many of the mass labor trials of 1918 and 1919, used professional traveling witnesses, moving from case to case, who would vary their testimony to fit the occasion.

The specific charges were also similar to those of the present trial: Distortion of the written documents of the organization, recordings by stool pigeons of private conversations that had taken place years past, etc.

The Defense Witnesses

The two principal defense witnesses were James P. Thompson and Bill Haywood, men who had unselfishly devoted their entire lives to the labor movement. Neither of them deigned to deny their membership in the labor organization. Instead, they told the dramatic story of labor's thirty year struggle to advance.

At one point, they introduced photographs of workers blown to bits in mines, lynched and tortured by mobs of bosses, etc. The prosecution objected on the ground that the pictures were "gruesome."

The defendants defied the court to stop the advance of the working class and clearly showed that the prosecution against them was but

the first of the persecutions to be a mere labor movement.

A Speedy "Verdict"

At the end of the testimony, the jury had 17,500 alleged offenses and 40,000 pages of type-written record to consider. They had to study the evidence against 100 individual defendants.

The jury, weighted with business men, came back within an hour with their verdict of guilty.

One of those convicted by the jury was Clyde Hough, who had been in jail at the time the alleged conspiracy and overt acts were committed.

The Judge Sentences

The sentences handed out by Judge Landis against the defendants amounted to a grand total of 2,081 years! As the defendants were leaving the courtroom, Landis asked their counsel if they intended to appeal the case. On being told yes, he called the defendants back and added a fine of \$20,000 to \$30,000 on each man.

Bill Haywood, in his autobiography, says, "Pontius Pilate or Bloody Jeffreys never enjoyed themselves better than did Judge Landis when he was imposing these terrible sentences upon a group of working men for whom he had no feeling of humanity, no sense of justice."

Most of the defendants never served out their full terms—not through any reversal of verdict by a higher court, but because of the wave of protest in the ranks of the labor and liberal movement, which forced President Harding to commute the sentences.

The AFL's Role

The official AFL leadership didn't lift a finger to aid the defendants. On the contrary, Haywood says in his autobiography: "Sam Gompers (AFL President) had gone to Newton Baker, Secretary of War, and had presented to him a plan to annihilate the I.W.W. Baker refused to take the suggestion of Gompers seriously; the latter then went to the Department of Justice, where he met with more success."

Gompers instigated the prosecution of the militants in the labor movement for the same reason that Tobin instigated the prosecution of Local 544-CIO and the S.W.P.—to retain his bureaucratic stronghold on the union movement.

Farmers Union To Organize Poor Farmers

Of the 30,000,000 farmers in the nation, only 4,000,000 are organized. And of the 4,000,000 organized farmers, most are the moderately well-off farmers, Jim Patton, president of the National Farmers' Union, announced last week in launching a new organization drive among the farmers.

Almost no farm-hands, renters, or the poorer owner-operators are organized in the Farm Bureau, the Grange or even the Farmers Union.

"We are going after the lower two-thirds of the farmers, after the twenty million farmers that are having the hardest time."

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Defense Committee Of IWW Supports 28 on Trial Here

Call Trials Attempt To Stop Workers From Organizing; Ask Aid For 28

Chicago, Nov. 11—Condemning attempts of the Department of Justice to re-enact the witch-hunting scenes of the first World War, the General Defense Committee of the IWW today issued a statement in support of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York, in its fight for the 28 men and women now on trial in Minneapolis on charges of "seditious conspiracy."

The full text of the GDC statement, signed by W. H. Westman, secretary of the committee, follows:

"Not since the trials in Chicago of more than 100 IWW members during the first World War has there been so important a case involving civil liberties as the trial of 28 men and women charged with seditious conspiracy now go-

ing on in Minneapolis, Minnesota, before Federal Judge Mathew M. Joyce.

"Though the defendants in the Minneapolis case are charged with 'seditious conspiracy' the General Defense Committee believes that the indictments are in reality an attack on the right of working men and women to organize. If the state can indict and convict these men and women and establish such a precedent labor's rights will be seriously endangered.

"The General Defense Committee of the IWW condemns the revival by the Justice Department and the government of the witch-hunting campaigns initiated by A. Mitchell Palmer during the war hysteria of 1917 and calls upon its many members and sympathizers to support the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., in the defense of the 28 men and women indicted and standing trial in Minneapolis.

UAW Local at Fisher Body Wires Support

A donation, and a pledge that "we are with you every step of the way," was received last week from the Fisher Body Local 45, Cleveland, United Auto Workers. John DeVito, recording secretary of Local 45, writes to Kelly Postal, secretary-treasurer of Local 544-CIO, as follows:

"We were notified by the Civil Rights Defense Committee that 28 members of your Local 544 were indicted by the Federal Government on charges of 'seditious conspiracy.'"

"We have contributed a check to the Civil Rights Defense Committee which will be turned over to a defense fund to be used to aid these 28 indicted persons."

"We sincerely hope that you come out victorious, and defeat these charges against your Union members; we are with you every step of the way."

It Sounds Good

A union man went to a downtown newsstand and asked for a copy of the Minnesota Teamster, Tobin's yellow sheet. The proprietor told him there were no more copies. Half an hour later the same man appeared again, asked the same question, and got the same answer. This was repeated several times, until the dealer got angry and said that there were positively no more copies. "Even if it isn't true," said the union man, "it sounds good."

ON POVERTY

Oh, the little more, how much it is! And the little less, what worlds away!

—Robert Browning

"HE SAID IT"



According to government witnesses in the "seditious conspiracy" trial now in progress in Judge Mathew M. Joyce's court room, V. R. Dunne has been the busiest and most talkative man in the United States. Whenever they are stuck for an answer to any question, or whenever they forget their rehearsed lines, they point to V. R. Dunne and say—"He said it." Or "He done it." Those who knew him best are amazed. For V. R. Dunne has a reputation in the labor movement for being the busiest and the least talkative man alive.

The Nation's Press Comments:

Belview Editorial For Rights of 28

The Belview INDEPENDENT, one of the state's well-known country weeklies, publishes a scathing indictment of the forces arrayed against Local 544-CIO and the 28 defendants in the current "seditious" trial. The complete text of the editorial, reprinted from the November 7, 1941, issue of the INDEPENDENT, follows:

"National interest is centered on Minneapolis at this time. Twenty-eight men and women are on trial charged with a serious offense, that of conspiring to overthrow the United States government. According to newspapers some of the evidence introduced is some of the writings of Karl Marx and Leon Trotsky. Whether we may or may not agree with the Socialist Workers Party's ideals, a great deal more is at stake in this trial than the guilt of the persons charged, and that is whether the people of the United States have the right of freedom of speech, freedom of press and other civil rights.

"Behind the charges against the twenty-eight defendants is a long story of the conniving and intrigue of powerful labor unions and industrial groups. It was only last summer Local 544 defied the leaders of the powerful AFL teamsters union by bolting to join the CIO. Three days later Daniel Tobin, powerful AFL teamsters president, sent a telegram to President Roosevelt denouncing the departure of Local 544 from the AFL to the CIO, and condemning its leadership. Soon after the Federal Bureau of Investigation stepped in with the resulting arrest of leaders of Local 544-CIO and some of the members of the Socialist Workers Party.

"The American Civil Liberties Union which is taking a definite part in the defense, claims that the persecutions were designed to aid one labor union against the other.

"Of course if the twenty-eight can be proven guilty of attempting to overthrow the United States government they should be punished. However if they have advocated changes in our governmental organization and have attempted to make those changes by educating the people to their ideas they have violated no law of the land or section of the constitution. Every one of the defendants has a right to his or her opinion and can express that opinion freely to anyone.

Stassen Denied Elections

"Frankly we feel that the entire case is the outcome of the controversy between the AFL and the CIO. Local 544 of the CIO has had the short end of the deal all the way through. In fact, if the letter of the law had been followed, an election would have been called and the members of the union could have voted and made the decision themselves as to which group they wished to have represent them.

"It is hard to believe that their organization would be guilty of fomenting revolution of the bloody type, when a more anti-war organization never existed in the United States. Their reasons for opposing the war is not necessarily from the point of view of expense but because they feel that the rank and file of working people of the United States will be spilling their blood for a war that will bring profits only to a few and death and disaster to the working people."

Day by Day in Court Summary of Minneapolis Trials

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

Testimony of Tobin goes on. John Novack took most of the day. The witness told the same story as the other Tobin agents—how the defendant defendants spoke to him of the necessity for armed revolution, etc. The only point where he differed from the stock story of most of the government witnesses was his tale of a conversation with an individual whom he knew only as "Rube."

"Rube" told him, in a conversation at the union hall, that the Socialist Workers Party had large quantities of arms hidden away in the walls of churches. They had bullets which were better than United States Army bullets and could pierce steel plate half an inch thick.

Novack said he didn't ask what churches were meant, nor could he give any more information about his mysterious informant.

Cross examination brought out that Novack worked on Tobin's goon squad. Judge Joyce refused to permit any questions on the wages received by Novack for this work.

MONDAY, NOV. 10

Today's developments gave definite proof to the defense committee of the strong link between Tobin's Committee of 99 and the FBI. Government witness Henry Harris, under cross-examination, revealed that FBI agent Thomas Perin was in attendance at Committee of 99 meetings, and that Tobin's agents in Minneapolis had called in the FBI at the beginning of the fight against Local 544.

Harris also disclosed that he carried an offer from the FBI to Karl Skoglund. The FBI offered to help

Skoglund obtain his citizenship papers if he would "break with the Dunnes." Skoglund turned down the offered bribe.

Next prosecution witness was Mrs. Myrtle Levenus, who testified that she had been a stenographer for the Associated Industries and had been sent by her employers to purchase a pamphlet at the S.W.P. headquarters, 919 Marquette Ave.

Her presence on the stand emphasized the united stand of Tobin the FBI and the most reactionary employers in Minneapolis against Local 544-CIO.

Mrs. Violet Williams was on the stand when court recessed.

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

Court was recessed for the day because of the Armistice Day holiday.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

A large part of the court session was taken up with the introduction by the prosecution of further excerpts from the literature and press of the labor movement. To date, the government has introduced from 150 to 175 articles and excerpts into the record.

Mrs. Williams, in her testimony, gave further evidence of the link between the Committee of 99 and the FBI. She told of the meetings between Committee leaders and an agent of the FBI at her home.

Glenn Smith, a 544-AFL "organizer," admitted that, while protected by a dozen "goon squad" men, he beat up Jake Cooper, defendant and 544-CIO member.

Smith's mumbling and incoherent testimony became so bad that Schweinhaut, Assistant Attorney-General, asked to withdraw him from the stand.

It was evident that the government case was drawing to an end as a succession of minor witnesses took the stand. Their allegations were mostly to the fact that different defendants had been seen at meetings of the S.W.P.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

A succession of government witnesses contradicted many of

the contentions made by the prosecution at the opening of the trial. Helen Hanftan, government witness and bookkeeper for Local 544-AFL, testified under cross-examination that the union had never paid Emil Hansen or his wife a salary, while Hansen was in Mexico. This had been one of the principal charges made by the prosecution to prove that the defendants made illegal use of the funds of Local 544 to further their "conspiracy."

Holstein, who was on the stand when court opened for the day, admitted under cross examination that he had participated in a bitter quarrel with the executive board of Local 544. That was when the board put an end to a racket run by Tommy Williams, Holstein, and other Tobin agents. He also admitted that Dobbs had scolded him for pocketing union money.

Also under cross-examination, Holstein admitted that he had never read a single article in the S.W.P. press, nor heard a single speech by any of the defendants which advocated use of force to overthrow the government.

George O'Brien, 544-AFL organizer and one of those scheduled to be tried soon for the Hill City shooting of a farmer, also testified for the government.

O'Brien told a fantastic tale of being taken to an S.W.P. meeting by mistake. It seemed that he thought that he was really attending a Silver Shirt meeting. Since he was at the S.W.P. headquarters anyhow, he decided to fill out an application card for the party and take in the meeting.

He said that the meeting was devoted to taking up a collection to help the French government which, he said, was controlled by Socialists.

The prosecution continued to introduce further excerpts from the S.W.P. press. The government has now placed into the record articles on many varied subjects, including "Yankee Imperialism in South America," "Treachery in Norway," an obituary to Leon Trotsky, etc., etc.

Call Parley On Anti-Negro Bias

NEWARK, N. J.—A program for equality of the Negro worker in industry will get full consideration this week at a conference called by the Negro Labor Committee of District 50 of the CIO United Mine Workers.

Negro and white delegates will attend the meeting, coming from all parts of New Jersey. This is the first conference of its kind ever to take place in northern New Jersey labor history.

The conference is expected to take action on the following four points:

1. End discrimination against Negroes in industry.
2. End discrimination against Negroes in communities where high rents and bias against Negroes in public places are frequent occurrences.
3. Equality in defense jobs for Negroes and equal training for defense jobs for Negroes.
4. Legislative action to enforce anti-discrimination laws and to propose further measures to curtail anti-Negro bias.

"The problem of the Negro worker is the problem of the white worker," ... the conference call points out.

A Man Named Rube... A Sample of the Government's 'Evidence'

It is impossible to describe in words the faces, appearance, character, of the government's witnesses in this "seditious" trial. One has to see them, parading into the witness stand, to realize what the government's "evidence" amounts to. A partial substitute for seeing them would be to read their verbatim testimony. But that would take up whole volumes of this paper.

Here, however, is a sample of their testimony, which will give you an idea what is going on in this courtroom in Minneapolis.

The witness who is speaking is John Novack, Tobin goon-squad man and government witness. And remember that what he is about to say, the government already knows; the prosecutors have gone over his testimony with him, not once but many times! He is telling what a man named Rube said. Who is Rube? Neither this witness nor any other has identified him. Prosecutor Anderson is putting the questions, Novack is answering:

Q: And was anything said in the clubroom at the Federal Workers Section (of Local 544) about whether there was any ammunition available, stored anywhere?

A: Well, this other fellow,

low, Rube, said, "You would be surprised at what we have. We have ammunition."

DEFENSE ATT'Y. GOLDMAN: That is objected to, your Honor. I do not know why we should be bound by somebody by the name of Rube. We do not know who it was.

Q: Do you know whether Rube was a Party member?

A: Yes, he was.

MR. GOLDMAN: Rube who?

THE WITNESS: I said I don't know his name.

MR. ANDERSON: Rubinsky?

THE WITNESS: Yes, Rubinsky was his name.

MR. GOLDMAN: How does he know he was a Party member?

THE COURT: I don't know.

THE WITNESS: I can answer that.

THE COURT: Go ahead and answer it.

A: I knew he was a Party member because he was helping organize the youth section which was part of the Federal Workers Section of 544.

MR. ANDERSON: The youth section of the union, 544?

MR. GOLDMAN: I object to (prosecution) counsel putting words into his mouth.

Q: What youth section was Rube organizing?

A: The youth section.

Q: Of what group or organization?

A: Well, of the Party.

Q: All right. What did Rube say?

A: He says, "You would be surprised how well we are

fixed." He said, "We have guns and ammunition planted in the walls of churches. We have bullets that will go through an inch and a half or two inches of armor plate, which is better than the United States Army can do."

Q: Well, was this a joking affair, or was it a serious argument?

A: Well, he might have been joking, but the way he said it, it was kind of serious. He was serious about it.

YOU Can Help The Defendants

The twenty-eight men and women who are on trial in the federal courtroom in Minneapolis are front-line fighters in the cause of union rights and civil liberties of this nation.

They merit the whole-hearted and generous moral and material support of every progressive organization and individual genuinely concerned with maintaining our democratic and constitutional rights.

Their fight against the prosecution must be won. That is why the CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE has been organized. Chairman of the Committee is James T. Farrell. Vice chairman is John Dos Passos. Secretary is George Novack. Scores of outstanding laborites, educators, civil liberty defenders, liberals have joined the national board of the CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

The government prosecution has been denounced by the CIO, Labor's Non-Partisan League, the United Auto Workers, the American Civil Liberties Union, THE NATION, THE NEW REPUBLIC, etc.

The CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE needs \$7,500 immediately to defray the heavy costs of fighting this case. Aid the 28 defendants by contributing promptly and generously to their Defense Fund. Mail all donations to the

Civil Rights Defense Committee
c-o Industrial Organizer, 1328 Second St. N.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

A receipt will be mailed you from the Industrial Organizer and from the national office of the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

Associated Industries Helps Prosecution

One of the government witnesses called to the stand Monday to testify against the 28 defendants was Myrtle Levenus, employee of the Associated Industries, who testified the heads of that anti-labor outfit sent her to the Labor Bookstore at 919 Marquette avenue last fall to purchase a copy of the Declaration of Principles of the Socialist Workers Party, one of the government's exhibits.

That the Associated Industries is cooperating with Biddle and Tobin in the witch hunt against the defendants comes as no surprise. From an absolutely reliable source, it has been learned that some months ago the Associated Industries turned over to the FBI its entire file on the militant leadership of Local 544.

When Defense Attorney Albert Goldman asked Myrtle Levenus if she knew anything about the Associated Industries turning over its files on 544 leaders to the FBI, Mr. Schweinhaut, sent here by Attorney General Biddle to aid the prosecution, was on his feet instantly, red-faced, to object to the question.

Fought Labor for 30 Years

The Associated Industries is the successor to the Citizens Alliance, founded in the 1900's to enforce the "Open Shop" in Minneapolis. At the instigation of the Citizens Alliance, former Police Chief Bloody Mike Johannes ordered his cops to open murderous fire upon Drivers Union pickets in the July, 1934, strike. Over fifty pickets were shot. Two died, Henry Ness and John Belor.

So hated and discredited was the Citizens Alliance following Local 574's strike victories in 1934, that the anti-labor bosses of Minneapolis changed the name of their organization to the Associated Industries.

President George K. Belden of Associated Industries, formerly a Citizens Alliance official, was discovered in 1938 to have attended several meetings of the fascist Silver Shirts.

It is no surprise to see Associated Industries witnesses aiding the prosecution.

Dictator Tobin, President Roosevelt and the Department of Justice, Governor Stassen—all are aiding the Associated Industries in the united front of reaction against Local 544-CIO.

Industrial Organizer

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Business Manager DANIEL BURKE Editor MILES B. DUNNE

Armistice Day

All the war-makers of the world grow more and more embarrassed when confronted each November 11th with Armistice Day, the day celebrated in the hearts of common people the world over for the release it gave to humanity from the mass murder of the First World War.

The imperialist war-makers were embarrassed on Armistice Day, because now they have got humanity on the rack of a Second World War. All the statesmen and diplomats and corporation heads of all countries have been driven by the insane contradictions of the capitalist system to unleash another World War on the people.

We remember when the wonderful news came to Minneapolis on that day of November 11, 1918, that the war was over, that the firing had ceased, that no more young men of Minneapolis would be butchered. Who that witnessed it can ever forget the universal jubilation with which the citizens of Minneapolis (and of the whole world, too) celebrated the news of the Armistice ending the First World War?—the coming out into the streets, the weeping and laughing, the embracing by total strangers, the wild spontaneous parade in the Loop, the songs and the happiness.

The next day teachers told the school-children that now Mr. President Wilson's promises and dreams would come true, that there would never be any more wars, that this had been "The War to End War," and to "Make the World Safe for Democracy."

How horribly mistaken were those teachers, parroting the lies of the statesmen.

From November 11, 1918, down to today, there has not been one day of peace on this earth, there has not been one day where war was not being waged on this globe. There is not more democracy today than there was twenty-five years ago—there is much less. Whole nations, whole continents, have fallen under the sway of fascist dictators who use the most barbarous methods of repression to prop up the dying capitalist order against its working-class critics.

On Armistice Day this year President Roosevelt had to give the customary official speech commemorating the end of the First World War. It was a tough spot for the President to be in, and we didn't envy him his assignment.

What could he say? Could he remind us with sorrow that his Democratic predecessor, President Woodrow Wilson, had fooled us when he drove us into the First World War under the slogans of "A War to End War" and "A War to Make the World Safe for Democracy?"

Of course President Roosevelt could not expose the lies of Wilson. Because then all the people would realize that this war, too, is a trap for the people.

Instead of recalling to the minds of the people that they were betrayed by Wall Street and Wilson in 1917, President Roosevelt did the only thing that the head of an imperialist government about to go to war could do—he tried to convince us that the First World War was all worth while, and that it would be a fine thing for the masses to fight again.

"What did the First World War get you?" asked President Roosevelt this Armistice Day.

It didn't get us peace. Twenty-three years later millions of men are under arms, tearing at one another's throats, all for the greater glory and profit of the generals, the statesmen, the bankers.

It didn't get us democracy. It got us repression—fascist slavery in Germany and Italy and France, military dictatorship in England and Canada, colonial slavery for India and Egypt, dictatorship in Latin America, it got us things in America like the Witchhunt Trial now going on in the federal courtroom in Minneapolis.

The First World War didn't get us economic security—it got us bigger depressions and more unemployment and mass misery, and greater debts and taxes and larger Veterans hospitals and more profiteers and millionaires. That is the harvest of the First World War.

The fruits of the present World War will be even more horrible, unless the common people of the world stop the mouths of the cannons, stretch out their arms to one another across the boundaries of the earth, and put an end to the system that breeds war.

Nailing a Tobin Lie ---

Here is another example of the lies of the Tobin-Government alliance.

Government witness, Mrs. Tom Williams, wife of a former 544 organizer who was in opposition to the defendants in the union, testified that the union had paid \$35 weekly to Mrs. Emil Hansen in 1938, while her husband was in Mexico helping to guard the life of Leon Trotsky.

Every member of Local 544 knows that the financial records of the union were on more than one occasion carefully examined by the official auditors of the International Union and that any such expenditure by the local union officers would have been quickly challenged, if found.

Further refutation of this charge is to be found in the outcome of the notorious "fink suit" against the union officers who are now defendants in the current "sedition" trial. All financial records of the union were subjected to a searching scrutiny in the courtroom of Judge Carroll. After many months of examination the judge ruled that the union records had been properly kept and that there was no evidence of the union officials having misappropriated any funds.

The day following the testimony of Mrs. Tom Williams the government itself unwillingly provided a clear refutation of the charge. Helen Hanifan, financial bookkeeper for Local 544 since 1936 and now employed by Tobin's dictator-receiver Raw-Deal Neal, testifying for the government, admitted under cross-examination that no such payment was ever made.

This piece of fabrication is only one in a long series of similar charges trumped up by the FBI and the Tobin-supported Committee of 99 in an effort to smear and railroad honest working class militants to the penitentiary.

On the National Picket Line

Marvel Schell

The undercurrent of discontent which is stirring in the American working class is fast reaching a boiling point. Evidence of the approach of another great strike wave is seen in the militant stand taken by both the miners and the railroad workers in their fight for unionism and the better things of life. The workers are again awakening to the fact that the real fight for democracy is right here at home.

The railroad controversy has a long history. It stems from demands made last year upon the operators for paid vacations. On June 10 of this year the twenty-one railroad unions presented the owners with demands for wage increases of 30 percent to bring railroad wages up to parity with similar crafts in other industry, to meet the rising cost of living, and to compensate the workers in part for the \$600,000,000 wage reductions they had suffered during the depression.

The Operators were ready with a demand of their own. They wanted the workers to take another ten percent wage cut!

Negotiations ended in a stalemate. On September 15 the more than one million railroad workers voted overwhelmingly to strike.

The strike vote set the wheels of the Railway Labor Act, passed in 1920 for just such an emergency, to grinding.

Under this Act, once a strike vote has been taken, the President is empowered to set up a fact finding Board to investigate. This Board has thirty days in which to make its decision, and then another thirty days must elapse before any strike action can be taken. In this case the Board appointed by the President took several weeks beyond the thirty day limit and then came in with a recommendation which even the bureaucratic heads of the Big Five Railway Brotherhoods couldn't stomach.

During the several weeks of hearings the Board lent its ear with utmost courtesy to the pleas of poverty presented by the owners. They shook their heads in concern when the owners said that to grant a 30 per cent increase in wages would mean that they would all go into bankruptcy.

And so the Board, on November 5, came forth with its decision. It recommended that the operating railroad workers — the Engineers, Firemen, Conductors, Trainmen and Switchmen — be contented with a mere 7 1/2 per cent increase and that

Baldwin Denounces Witch Hunt

Hits Prosecution of Ideas in 93 Year-old Communist Manifesto

An enthusiastic audience of 250 heard Roger N. Baldwin, national director of the American Civil Liberties Union, denounce the Federal prosecution of the 28 defendants in the "sedition" trial, at a meeting Thursday evening in the Curtis Hotel.

Benjamin Lippincott, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota, was chairman of the meeting which had been called to protest the trial of the 28.

Professor Lippincott first introduced Joseph Gilbert, former Educational Director for Midland Wholesale Cooperative. Mr. Gilbert told how he him-

self had been jailed during the last war for his anti-war opinions and showed that he was attacked not because of anything he had done, but because he was a representative of the Non-Partisan League which was feared by "the powers that be." He pointed out that in our country the dominant economic interests are afraid of the forms of organization represented by 544-CIO and the Socialist Workers Party and seek to smash them "under the cover of Law and Order."

He closed his aggressive protest against the trials with the statement that "workers throughout the country should raise their voices, millions upon millions, to denounce

this travesty on justice."

V. R. Dunne Speaks

Vincent Ray Dunne, organizer for 544-CIO and one of the leading defendants, gave the labor background of the case.

"We believe that just as Tobin fights against the wishes of the majority of Local 544, so will the employer minority fight the wishes of the majority and try to prevent them from achieving a peaceful socialist world and we say in that case we will prepare for the worst," declared V. R. Dunne. Baldwin, the couching speaker, declared:

"Everyone knows that Tobin is Roosevelt's man. He was ambassador for FDR between the AFL and CIO, he is

a supporter of FDR through thick and thin and he has the support of Roosevelt. This is a labor case under the guise of a sedition trial.

"For the first time in our history they are trying men and women for the ideas in the 93 year old Communist Manifesto. It is the very selfishness of the people in this movement, their unselfishness, that has led to this prosecution. Are there not enough unions with racketeers and thugs to prosecute? Couldn't the government have picked on the Silver Shirts or some other vicious fascist group which actually practices violence?"

A substantial collection was taken up to aid the defendants.

FLASHES from the Courtroom

Highlights in the Minneapolis "Sedition" Trial

Two women members of the fascist organization, "Mothers of Minnesota," have appeared several times in the courtroom, hoarsely whispering their venom against the defendants.

As the government nears the close of its case, an estimate reveals that it has introduced about 230 exhibits, practically all being excerpts from the party's press and pamphlets. Many of these excerpts already have been read, with original pronouncements by prosecution attorneys, to the jury.

On Armistice Day no court session was held, giving both defendants and jury a welcome rest.

The twelve jurors and two alternates live under the constant supervision of federal deputies. They are staying at a loop hotel three blocks from the courtroom. Four times daily they march from the hotel to the courtroom, and

the non-operating workers be granted 13 1/2 per cent.

The railroad workers didn't think that was enough. Especially in view of the fact that the day after the Board passed down its decision the New York Times came out with a statement that during the first nine months of 1941 the Class 1 railroads had earned a net profit of \$358,582,763 as against \$58,588,060 for the same period in 1940. OR AN INCREASE IN PROFITS OVER 1940 OF 512 PERCENT.

Then when President Roosevelt put forth his feeble for a new income tax of 15 percent to be deducted from workers' pay envelopes, the railroad workers looked upon the proposed 7 1/2 per cent with even more coldness. On Tuesday of this week the heads of the Big Five Brotherhoods is-

return. Several of the jurors have been reported slightly ill this week.

Some of the misinterpretations of the defendants' ideas and activities will go down in history.

George O'Brien, member of the Tobin gun mob involved in the Hill City shooting of a farmer, testified he heard James Cannon appeal for funds on behalf of the French Socialist Party, which was in charge of the French government and badly needed funds.

Henry Harris testified that Stalin had managed to get the better of Trotsky because Stalin got hold of the mailing list of the Russian Communist Party and used it to send out his propaganda.

Emanuel Holstein, another Tobin stooge, could remember only two slogans used by the defendants. Every time he saw James Cannon, Holstein testified, Cannon always told him: "Every worker into the party, every party member a general in the revolution." Organizer editor Carlos Hudson,

sued a call for a strike to begin progressively on December 7, 8, 9. The other unions, in which there are 900,000 workers are meeting this week all over the country to decide upon what action they will take.

Meanwhile, the bosses, the union heads, and all other interested parties are watching to see what President Roosevelt will do.

That is, everyone except the workers who are most affected. They are getting ready for their strike.

SO SAY THE DEFENDANTS
I never could believe that Providence had sent a few men into the world, ready hooted and spurred to ride, and millions ready saddled and bridled to be ridden.—Richard Rumbold.

Holstein testified, often says "To the Red Dawn." It's a toast, Prosecutor Schweinhaut explained.

We learn that many members of the liberal Saturday Lunch Club are disgusted with one of their members, an elderly businessman named Charles H. Chambers, who testified against V. R. Dunne. Chambers told of a question he had asked Dunne when the latter addressed the lunch club in the spring of 1936, and the answer Dunne gave relative to the possibilities of a social revolution in America.

The academic qualifications of some of the Tobin stooge-pigeons got into the record. Novak quit the sixth grade at the age of 16. Harris was 16 years old when he finally gave up at the seventh grade.

One of the exhibits introduced by the government is Tom Winttingham's book "New Ways of War," issued by the Penguin Press. Winttingham is an official in the British army. His book may be purchased for 25c in thousands of book stores here and in England. The Powers Department Store sells it in Minneapolis. It became evidence against the defendants because one of them wrote a book-review about it in the SOCIALIST APPEAL.

Only out-of-town witness for the prosecution was Eugene S. Gleason, reporter for the PLAIN DEALER, who came from Cleve-

land to testify to a talk given there by Grace Carlson when she made a speaking tour last year. His city editor sent him to the FBI. Of course he turned out to be a fink. Questioned by Minneapolis newspaper reporters (who are all Guild members,) Gleason stated he was not a member of the Newspaper Guild and wouldn't join.

Every Tobin stooge-pigeon testified to meeting with the FBI agents, either prior to the organization of the Committee of 99 or during the fight against the leaders of Local 544. If there is any agency of the federal government that President Roosevelt did not place at the disposal of war-monger Tobin, we'd like to hear of it.

Holstein admitted under cross-examination that Farrell Dobbs did most to organize the over-road drivers of the Middle West.

It would be interesting to know just how much money this trial is costing the government. If we added up the salaries of the prosecutor and his staff, the judge and the court attendants, wages for the dozens of FBI agents working on the case, expenses for the jury, fees paid to the witnesses, etc., we imagine that it would come to quite a tidy sum.

The bosses really loosen their purse strings when it comes to attacking the militant labor movement.

Best joke of the week: John Novak, Tobin goon-squad man

and government witness, was asked by defense counsel whether he had been on the Tobin goon squads. He replied, "What's a goon squad?"

Maybe he should be told about the birds and flowers.

Some interesting evidence is coming out during the trial about the character of Tobin "organizers."

Glenn Smith, Tobin goon-squad man, admitted under cross-examination that he formerly worked for a "special" detective.

He told how, backed up by a dozen other goons, he beat up 544-CIO member Jake Cooper.

All through his testimony, he either grinned widely or else mumbled to himself so that no one could hear his testimony.

His gibberings embarrassed the prosecution so much that Assistant Attorney General Schweinhaut asked to have him withdrawn from the stand.

As the prosecution nears the end of its case and the defense prepares to introduce its testimony, it is noticeable that the boss newspapers have started to cut down on the publicity given to the trial. The CHICAGO TRIBUNE has already withdrawn its reporter from the courtroom.

The "impartial and objective" press gave a lot of publicity to the sensational charges of the prosecution. We're willing to bet that the defendants' story will be quickly shoved off the front pages and given as little publicity as possible.

Point by Point Summary of the Trial

1. June 9, 1941: Local 544, at a regular membership meeting with almost 4,000 members present, votes almost unanimously to withdraw from Tobin's International and to accept a charter offered by the CIO.

2. June 13, 1941: Tobin wires to President Roosevelt, appealing for aid against Local 544-CIO. Tobin's plea demanded that "the officers of this local union . . . must be in some way prevented from pursuing this dangerous course." (Tobin's telegram was published in the New York Times, June 14.)

3. June 14, 1941: Roosevelt's secretary, Stephen Early, states to a press conference at the White House that Roosevelt, in reply to Tobin's appeal, "asked me to immediately have the Government departments and agencies interested in this matter notified." (New York Times, June 14.)

4. June 27, 1941: FBI agents raid the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party in Minneapolis, seizing books and pamphlets that have been on public sale for many years. Assistant Attorney General Schweinhaut, sent by Biddle to Minneapolis to prepare the case against Local 544-CIO and the S.W.P., ordered the raid. At the same time, Attorney-General Biddle announces in Washington; "the principal S.W.P. leaders, against whom the prosecution is being brought, are also leaders of Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis. . . and have gained control of a legitimate labor union to use it for illegitimate purposes." (St. Paul Dispatch, June 28.)

5. July 15, 1941: The Department of Justice obtains the indictment

of 29 people, including the leadership of Local 544-CIO and the S.W.P.

CIO national leaders charge that the indictment is payment by Roosevelt of the political debt he owed to Tobin, chairman of the labor committee of the Democratic Party. Labor's Non-Partisan League, the United Auto Workers, United Construction Workers and other important unions denounce the prosecution as a frameup.

6. Sept. 19, 1941: Governor Stassen, collaborating with Tobin, has stooge Conciliator Alfred Blair refuse 544-CIO's request for an election to be held in the industry to determine whether Tobin or 544-CIO represents the workers. Blair certifies Tobin's union without an election.

Stassen is rewarded by Tobin with an invitation to speak before the AFL convention in Seattle; Blair is given "labor relations expert" job by Gamble-Robinson Corporation.

7. Oct. 27, 1941: The trial opens. A jury is chosen by methods which produce a jury without one trade unionist or industrial worker on it.

8. Oct. 29, 1941: A parade of Tobin payrollers appear as the government witnesses. They reveal under cross-examination, that Tobin's Committee of 99 called in and has been collaborating with the FBI from the beginning of the Tobin fight against Local 544-CIO.

9. Nov. 10, 1941: One Tobin agent, Henry Harris, discloses under cross-examination that he transmitted a proposal of the FBI to Karl Skoglund, offering aid in obtaining citizenship papers if Skoglund would "break with the Dunnes." Skoglund refused and is one of the 28 defendants.

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